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9 July 1960

Given to Secy. Hester
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Upon the nomination of a Democratic candidate for President the question may arise as to your policy with regard to the intelligence briefing of the candidate.

This matter was raised in your press conference of Wednesday, March 30, as reported in the 'New York Times' of March 31. Mr. Edward P. Morgan of American Broadcasting Company asked, as the second part of a double-barreled question, "What is your view on the suggestions that after the nominees are actually picked they be given high-level intelligence briefings?"

As reported, your answer was: "Well, the second part, to take that first--always we do that. They did it for me in 1952, and I did it in '56, as quick as the nominees are named, they begin to get it, and for this very practical reason: One of the two of them is the successor, he is the obvious successor, and so you have to keep him informed."

You may wish to consider the desirability of taking the initiative, upon the nomination of the Democratic candidate, of reaffirming the position you took last March before the matter is raised by the press or otherwise. Possibly you might wish to give me instructions to proceed to get into contact with the candidate to set up the procedures for the briefings.

Respectfully yours,

AWD/ji

Orig. - DCI handed to Secy. Hester

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Allen W. Dulles
Director

(EXECUTIVE INFORMATION FILE)